

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

3000

SERIES/No

CONTRACTOR

AUTHOR

R G Scaife 9.1.80

TITLE

Preliminary analysis of carbon-
ised cereal from Harlington
Wall Garden Farm

9th January 1980

R. G. SCAIFE

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF CARBONISED CEREAL FROM HARLINGTON

WALL GARDEN FARM

Site Location

The site at Wall Garden Farm, Sipson Lane, Harlington (TQ07782) is on land currently under gravel extraction by H. Streeters Sand and Ballast Company. This resulted in the exposure of a possible corn drier of late Roman date from which quantities of carbonised grain were recovered from the flue and stokehole.

Identification

Identification of a preliminary sample of carbonised grain produced the following:-

Hordeum vulgare L. emend.	17	6 row hulled barley
H. vulgare ssp. nudum	2	6 row naked barley
Triticum dicoccum Schübl	6	Emmer
cf. T. aestivum L./T. compactum Host.	2	Bread wheat
Indeterminable	15	
Total	42	

Preservation of the caryopses varied between poor and moderate, with distortion severe in some cases. Six caryopses of emmer were of diminutive size. No rachis fragments were available in the sample.

A full analysis of further material and possible interpretation is to be carried out.